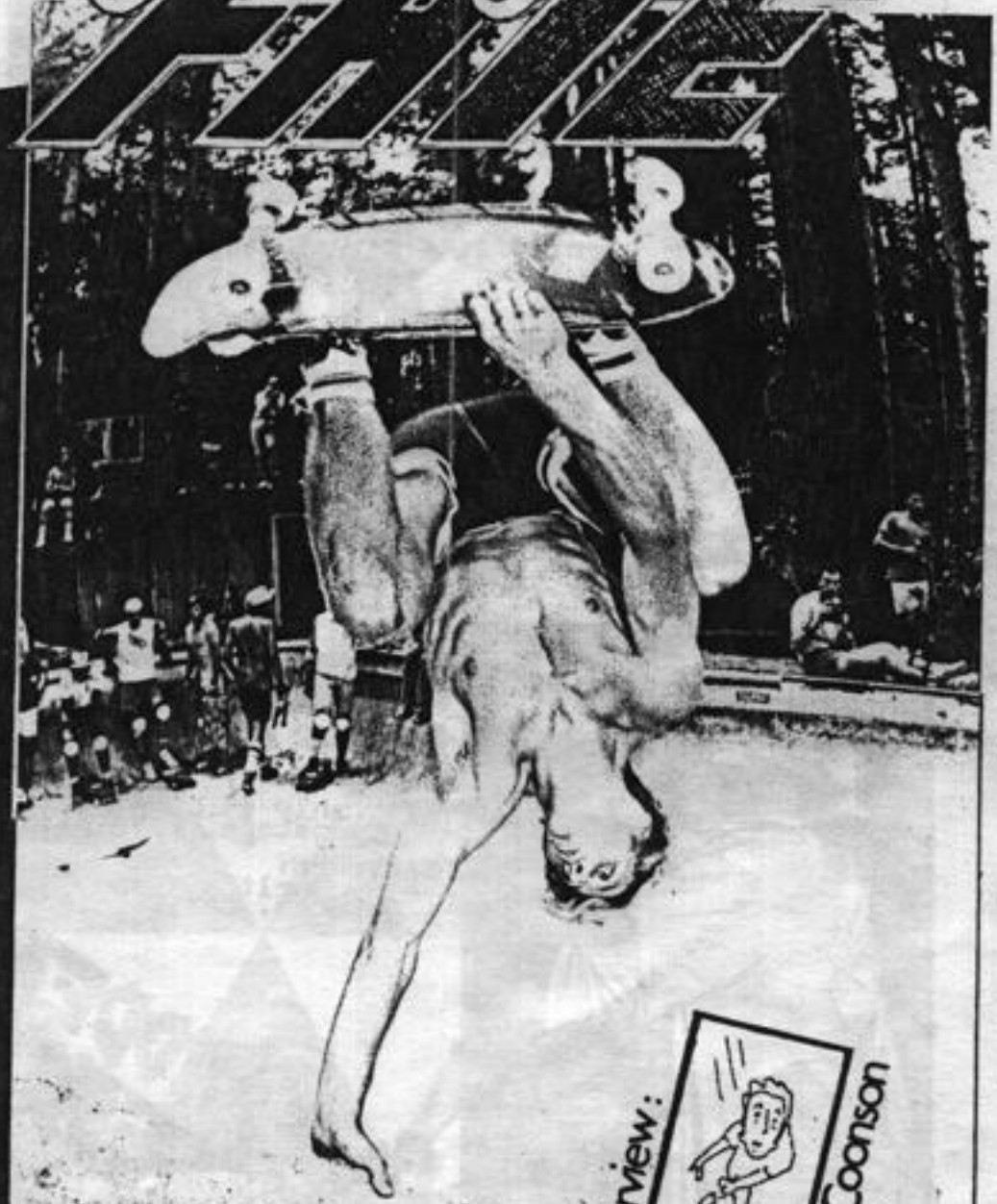
ISSUE NUMBER 29 NOVEMBER, 1983

SKATE



Interview:
Mark Coonson

the faction SJ

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SKATE FATE

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DRAWINGS-N.B. and GD
LAYOUTS-GD

ON THE FRONT: Rob Roskopp lifts himself above the abused edge of the Dolphin pool on this cover of Gryors. Read the story and learn further, turn to "Wild Hairs" on page ten. Photo: Grant Brittain.

SKATE FATE
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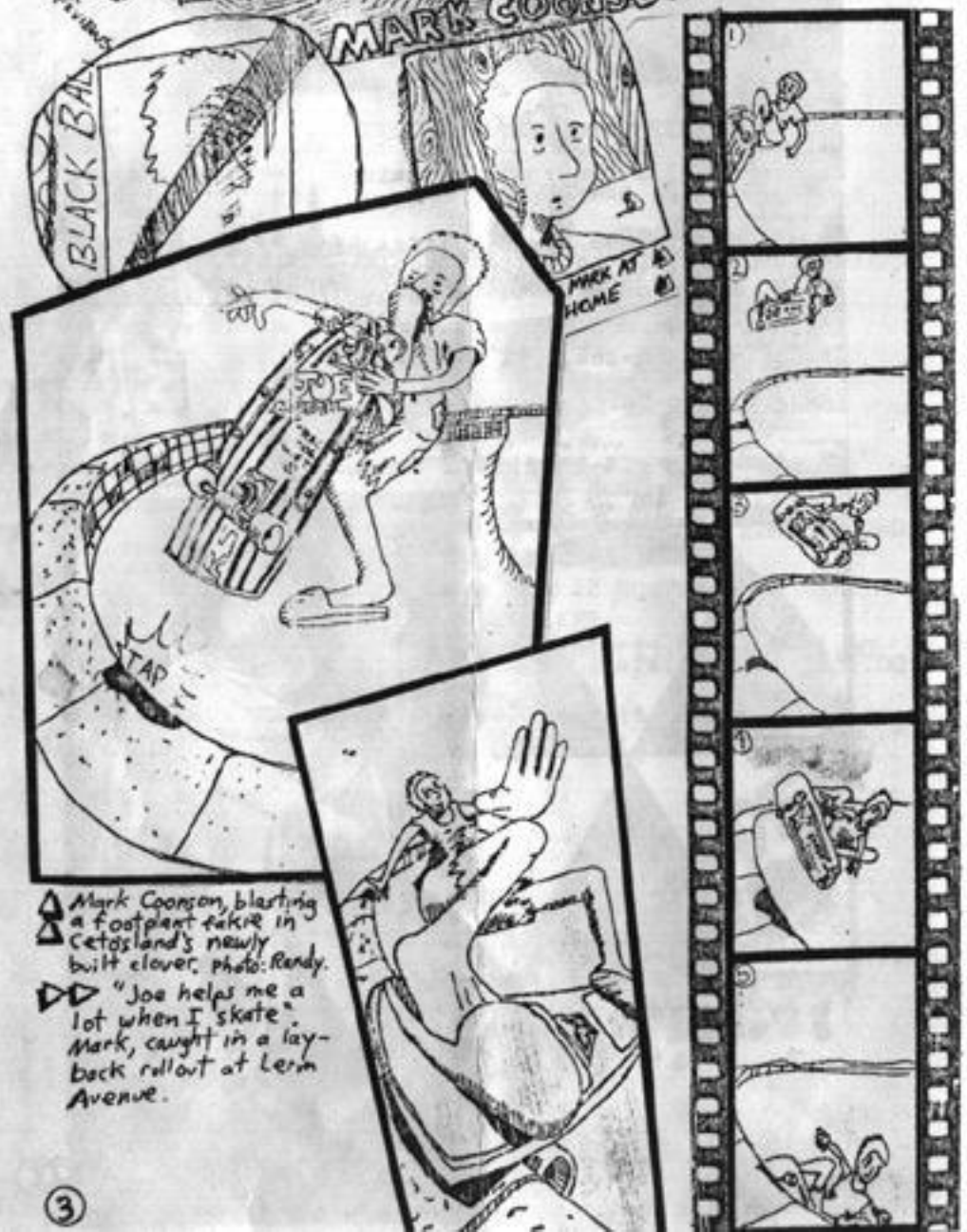
SKATE THEN DIE!

SPECIAL REPORT

MARK COONSON



Mark Coonson, blasting a footplant fakie in Cotsland's newly built clover. photo: Randy.

"Joe helps me a lot when I skate". Mark, caught in a lay-back rollout at Lerm Avenue.

At the youthful age of 15, Mark Coonson is quickly rising as one of the top skateboarders of our time. Among other things, he has swiftly gained the respect of such seasoned veterans as Gomez, Eddie Guy, Joe, et all.

"If you haven't seen Coonson direct his TRAC DOE WOET 360 deck over some worn plys of masonite, or at least a dust ridden bowl or pool, you ain't seen shit!" —George Trackman, (owner of TRAC DOE WOET).

It comes as no surprise that Mark, a true skater to the end, just isn't too sure about anything in the world or life in general. Evidence of this can be found in the constant worried, unsure expression on his face. But despite all of this, Mark continues to skate on unaffected in his non-chalant, gloomy style.

Destined to drop out of school, not to mention becoming the best vertical skateboarder in his time, Coonson, what else can be said?

"An upstart. I've never seen anyone with his motivation."
—Bobs

"I've never really thought about it, but now that Coonson is pro, I'm gonna have to start training to stay up there."
—Eddie Guy

"I skated with him back when no one else would, back when he was nothing. Practically raised, nurtured, and trained the kid. Now, he's gone me several better. I'm proud of him."
—Joe

"Every time I turn my back, he brews up another, what was said to be an impossible move. I wonder what he thinks about?"
—Gomez

How's it been going, Mack?

My name's not Mack. Don't ever call me Mack. I've been skating. So what of it?

Where have you been skating?

Where ever I can take a few pushes. Ha Ha. Drink Cocoa. I skate Slar-A, Lerm, some ramps, also a board meeting. I kind of want to go skating right now. Will you drive me to Lerm?

I know someone who would, for free! Who do you live with?

I live with my mom and my dog Lump. You might have heard of him, huh? He eats beets and drinks soda water. What do ya think?

Huh! Oh. So you're in the 10th grade now. How do you like it down there at Ficont High School?

NOT KNOWING THE NEIGHBORHOOD, COONSON SKATES THROUGH, UN-ATTACHED FROM SOCIETY.

AN EARLYIER M.C. DIRECTING AN INDY AIR.

Floont sucks, the principal is a homo-sexual. The vice-principal is a bi-sexual. There's all types there. Even blacks. Are you a Marchant?

Do you like learning?

Learning? You think I like school or something? Geez, man. I can only take so much of school. I mean, we all need some sort of education. To what degree, that's up to the individual. I'm gonna skate when I feel like it. No one should have the right to stop me. I feel I've learned enough for now, cause these are the progressive years of my life. And if you ask another question about school, I'll leave this interview. How does that sound to you?

Not too good. We like you, Mark. Mark? Mark? Well?

Well what?

What do you think of us?

I think you guys are basically lame. Could you ask me some better questions?

Who do you like to skate with?

Joe, Eddie Guy. I'd like to skate with the visitor, but no one knows where he skates. I'm gonna send Lump on a mission, a mission to spy on the visitor. Now what do you think of Lump?

You've skated Del Mar. Did you like it?

I've only skated it for an hour. The 8 pipe was cool. The freestyle was pretty hot. Ohh, the square pool was WAY rippable. The keyhole was sluggish.

AN ABOVE SHOT OF MARK, DOING A FALL GUY ON HIS EXPERIMENTAL MODEL. PHOTO-RANDY.

I wanted to try an ollie channel, backside. Grant Brittain's hair looked lame. What do you think of Grant's hair? Have you ever seen it? What's this Hi-ball crap?

How come you only skated it for an hour?

Because Joe, photo Randy, and myself went to Mexico to shoot an ad for Trac Doe West and we were already late.

What kind of ad? Where in Mexico?

A God damn toard ad, you puto. I don't know where. All I know is there were broken down shacks and bullshit. Why do you ask such redundant questions?

Do you have a girlfriend?

I have friends that are girls. So what's it to ya?

What do you care about?

I care about my health, my skate, Lump, my mom's okay. There's this chick that's pretty mellow. I own some tea bags. Jon.

How does it feel to be pro?

I haven't entered against anyone yet, although I can say that it won't be pretty.

Do you admire Dave Letterman?

Yeah. What kinds of tricks

"THE FIRST TIME I SAW DEL MAR, I WONDERED IF ANYONE HAD DONE CHANNELS. THEY SAID IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE. FRONTSIDE AIR CHANNELS WERE CHILD'S PLAY. NOW, OLLIES ARE A LITTLE MORE CHALLENGING" -MC. P.

are you doing now?
All the ones you saw the last time I skated. I think booby traps will be a hard trick for most to wire. Fall guys are very impressive. Have you seen the No-tec dude?

Do you have any new tricks which you might attempt?
Yeah, 540 backside airs, no-bo's, maybe no-bo's to fakie, 360 beans, I'm thinking of a trick, a frontside ollie to backside axle stall. What do you think?

What do you think of your sponsors?
Rick Strom trucks? Oh, shit man. I've never even RENT one of his trucks. He also treats me very considerate. We eat at Reuben's, the Black Anus, Spitz's, but Denny's sucks. As far as T.D.W. goes, they're way casual. George Trackman is giving me a model. I'll be getting 12 dollars per board. Now what do you think?

Sounds pretty ambitious. Do you use safety gear?
Get out.

What's the most "rad" thing you've ever seen?
I was in the back yard with Lump, when all of the sudden, some birds flew clean into the fence. They died.

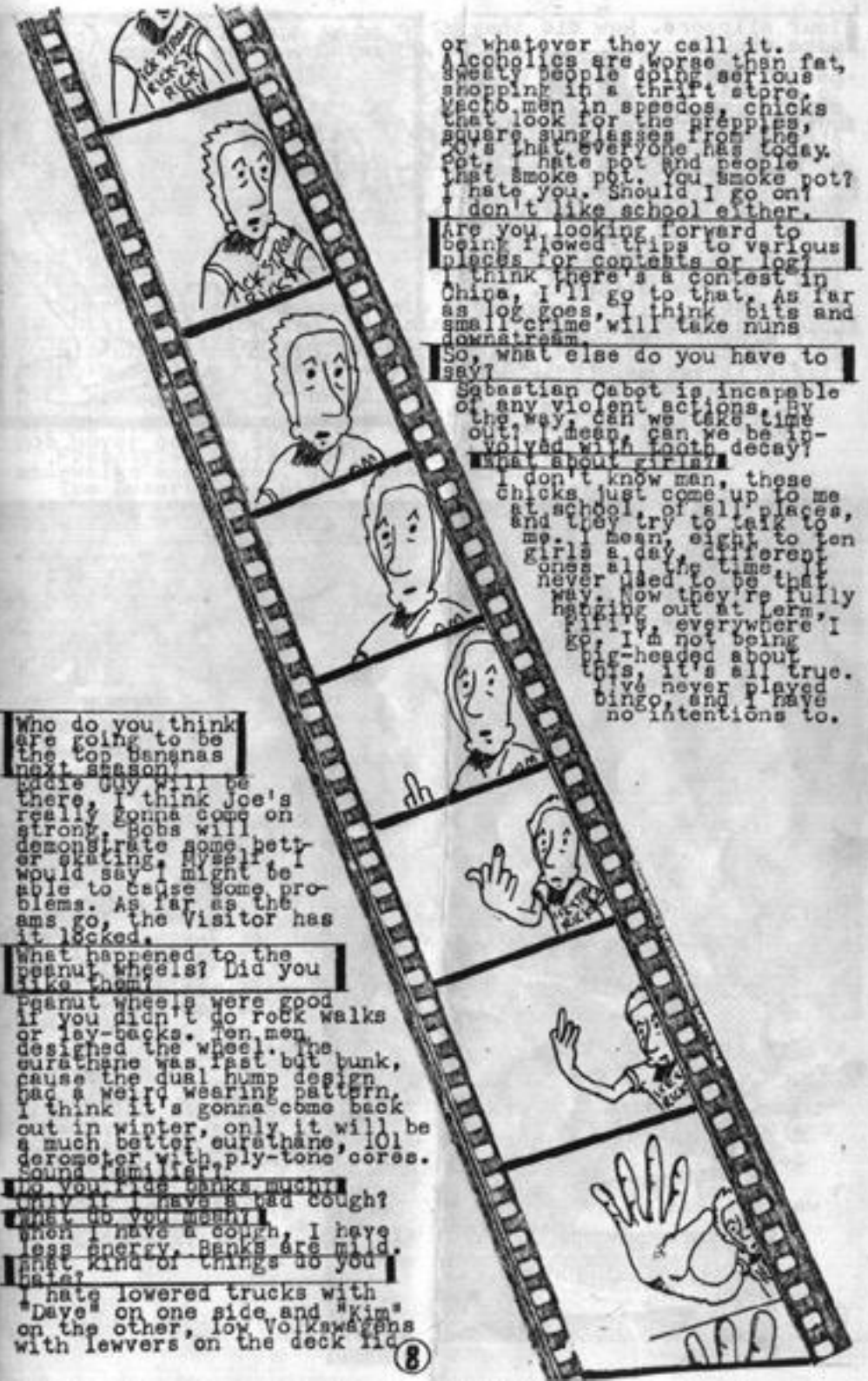
MARK COONTON SLAPS A STOP GRIND DOWN FI-FI'S RAMP, NEAR CETO'LAND.

What's the most "rad" thing you've ever done?
During class one time, I leaned a desk against the chalk board and road up it. It was for my speech class. I got kicked out for a week, I was so bummed. One time I did an Indy air off of a moving auto. What have you done?

Do you have any advice for beginning skaters?
All I can say is, skate when ever you want. If you think you need equipment, wear it. Follow your instincts.

MARK AT CETO'LAND. RICK STROM LOOKING ON.

REO SPEEDWAGON #1



or whatever they call it. Alcoholics are worse than fat, sweaty people doing serious shopping in a thrift store, vecho men in speedos, chicks that look for the preppies, square sunglasses from the 70's that everyone has today. pot hate pot and people that smoke pot. You smoke pot? I hate you. Should I go on? I don't like school either.

Are you looking forward to being flowed trips to various places for contests or log?
I think there's a contest in China, I'll go to that. As far as log goes, I think bits and small crime will take nuns downstream.

So, what else do you have to say?
Sebastian Cabot is incapable of any violent actions. By the way, can we take time out? I mean, can we be involved with tooth decay?

What about girls?
I don't know man, these chicks just come up to me at school, of all places, and they try to talk to me. I mean, eight to ten girls a day, different ones all the time. It never used to be that way. Now they're fully hanging out at Lerm, I'll be everywhere I go. I'm not being big-headed about this, it's all true. I've never played bingo, and I have no intentions to.

Who do you think are going to be the top bananas next season?
Eddie Cuy will be there, I think Joe's really gonna come on strong. Bobs will demonstrate some better skating, myself I would say I might be able to cause some problems. As far as the ams go, the Visitor has it locked.

What happened to the peanut wheels? Did you like them?
Peanut wheels were good if you didn't do rock walks or ley-backs. Ten men designed the wheel. The eurathane was fast but bunk, cause the dual hump design pac a weird wearing pattern, I think it's gonna come back out in winter, only it will be a much better eurethane, 101 derometer with ply-tone cores. Sound familiar?

Do you like Banks much?
Only if I have a bad cough?

What do you mean?
When I have a cough, I have less energy. Banks are mild.

What kind of things do you hate?
I hate lowered trucks with "Dave" on one side and "Kim" on the other, low Volkswagens with lewvers on the deck lid.

Your slippers. How did they come about?

When I was small, when I needed idols, I looked up to my dad. He wasn't a boxer, he was a noose maker. I wanted to follow in his foot steps, I literally did that by wearing his clothes and walking behind him. I finally realized he was a true bum. They divorced. I changed my attitude. But the one thing my dad did hit around hard was his clothing. I still wear the same things he wore. There's nothing better to skate in than slippers. So go to hell.

Comments or anything?

Shit man, I just want to take skating as far as my capabilities will let me. Let's not worry about the future.

YOU DON'T NEED ACTION

Just sit around like a rock or something.

Do chores then watch TV.

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Wild Hairs

The ever active JOHN SMYTHE has done it again. He has easily managed to get another of his articles changed 180 degrees around by unknown sources just prior to publication in a major magazine.

Thirty skaters crammed into a backyard pool in 1983? What is this? Some kind of rennaisance? Who cares? Yes, your eyes can believe it. The super pool session went down a couple of months back, over the Labor Day weekend in the Dolphin pool, a slightly bent rectangular shaped bowl situated in the thick woods of the Santa Cruz hills. Those who rode well above the others were NEIL BLENDER and ROB ROSKOPP (pictured below) who was seen powering rock-n-roll slides over the ripped off coping block jagged tile edge. Rob never ceases to amaze.

Freestyle wheels, oddly enough, work quite well in the sidewalks and curbs. Give them a try.

The Desert Ramp might be moved to Solana Beach. Word has

PHOTO: GRANT BRITTAIN

it that huge stacks of masonite sheets have been mysteriously disappearing from construction sites in various locales. Just watch out.

Skating through the sidewalks at 3:30 in the morning in a town not too unlike your very own, Garry Davis accidently stumbled upon a man in a black hooded cape with the numbers 666 marked on his chest. After a brief conversation, GD continued on his way. No further details will be released at this time.

The Faction, after playing countless shows up in the land of temporary love (San Francisco) have released a new album. If you want to, get it.

Until next issue, just remember. Nobody cares.

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